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Newly Issued Stamps.



ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—As announced in our issue of June 15, the set of the new stamps for this country has been completed by the addition of three stamps, bearing respectively the values 30, 60, 90 centavos, *fac similes* of which are given above. The set, as completed, is as follows:

- Un (1) centavo, violet, portrait of Gen. Antonio Balcarce.
- Cuartro (4) cent, brown, portrait of Dr. Mariano Moreno.
- Treinta (30) cent, orange, portrait of Gen. Carlos de Alvear.
- Sesenta (60) cent, black, portrait of Don Gervasio Antonio de Posadas.
- Noventa (90) cent, blue, portrait of Gen. Don Cornelio Saavedra.

The set is perforated on white paper, and because of the accurate engravings above, needs no extended description.

**INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CARDS.**—In view of the fact that the Post Office Departments of Canada and Newfoundland have agreed to exchange postal cards with the United States, on condition that an additional one cent stamp will be placed on the card, there is every reason to believe that new cards of the value of two cents will be issued by the Postal department of each country. It is rumored that these Governments have each a card in preparation. *Nous verrons.*

### Postal Cards.

BY Z.

#### I.—INTRODUCTION.

Ever since postage stamps were devised for the franking of letters, there has been a tendency both on the part of the individual and the government to cheapen the cost of correspondence. When the carrying of the mail was a species of competition between the government and its citizens, the latter (thus engaged in the trade) forced the former time and time again to lower the rates of postage, and many and fierce were the conflicts which both engaged in until the government was obliged to succumb. Witness the days of early postage in this country, the struggles between the mail carriers, the attempt of the government to maintain a monopoly of high rates, the attitude of the press on the question, and finally the concession made by the government when it drove all competition from the field and reduced postage to a minimum. What has been true here is true to a certain extent in other countries, with this difference perhaps, that cheap rates are due to popular agitation, or ministerial concession, or to governmental self-sacrifice, and to the theory that that plan seems the greatest intellectual and social benefit to the people which guarantees them the greatest good and causes them the least direct outlay.

The latest result of this cheapening of postal rates is the postal card which now has been generally adopted throughout the world, and may become, as it has in two instances (between the United States and Canada, and the United States and Newfoundland) an international expediency.

It is not necessary in this article to relate the causes which made postal cards a necessity, or the instances of ridicule and contempt which greeted the invention, or the thousand numerous blunders and conceits which attended its adoption. Suffice it to say the postal card is an

Austrian innovation, and that it is serving its purpose well. In the latter part of 1869, the *Neue Frei Presse* of Vienna called attention to this creation of the Post Office destined to lessen the cost, and as a consequence increase the amount of correspondence. It described these postal cards as twice as large as visiting cards, to be sold to the public for about one cent each the communication to be written in ink or pencil on one side, and the address on the other: the cards to be forwarded without envelopes, and all cards containing an improper communication to be destroyed.

*Le Timbrophile* introduced the new comer to the philatelic world, and one of our English contemporaries thus commented on its appearance: "There is something novel and striking about this last offshoot of postal progress, and no doubt it is a wise though bold innovation. That the facilities it offers will be generally taken advantage of can hardly admit of question, and we see no reason to suppose that the post-office will lose by it. Indeed, its effect must be to largely increase that ephemeral class of correspondence which contributes so notably to fill the mailbags. The thing works so easily that every one will be tempted to try it. Friends who wish to make appointments to meet each other will avail themselves of this medium to indicate the hour and place of rendezvous. Dinner invitations, information as to the occurrence of trivial every-day events, and a thousand other such minor matters of communication will be sent by the post-card. Would that they could be introduced in England! Who shall say how many millions would be used in London alone?"

## II.—EXPLANATION.

A post-card is a piece of ordinary card-board varying in size and thickness, sometimes highly finished and surfaced, or porous and soft, and scarcely at all adapted for purposes of ink-writing. As the main object of the system is to carry the greatest amount of single messages consistent with the least weight of matter, the extremely large cards, as in the German, are made from thin cardboard, and are unwieldy and liable to damage in transit, while the small cards, as the Newfoundland, are correspondingly thick, and in almost every case extremely fitted for their requirements.

SIZE.—As the cards of almost every nationality vary in size, no convenient plan can be resorted to to give an accurate rendering of the dimensions. And if such a plan was possible it is not necessary at this early stage, since cards have not yet gone through all the elaborate courses of envelopes or adhesives. For all purposes then, the distinction into large, ordinary, and small, will suffice. Of course exceptional instances occur which will be noted in the proper place.

THE TINT generally prevailing for the material of the card is a light cream color. Sometimes it deepens into buff, and again loses its tint and becomes white. It is found in green, rose, yellow, blue and pink, but seldom, as those colors are not suitable for writing. However there is a tendency for all these exceptional colors to be displaced by cream colored or white cards, if for nothing more than for the ease of reading the written communication.

THE INSCRIPTIONS on the cards offer a very diversified field of study. From those bearing the simple expression "post-card," and devoid of directions, instructions, lines or stamps, to others very prolific in their instructions and sometimes in different languages. Some contain the most explicit details that nothing but the address must be written on the face of the card, and the reverse must be devoted wholly to the communications, while others may leave the writer in doubt as to which is which. The small cards are generally surrounded by a frame work which, with the inscriptions and stamp, is elaborately engraved, or again type set. The large cards are usually typographed, the place of the stamp being marked off, or impressed in color, as the case may be. In these inscriptions changes take place from time to time, as in later emissions where we find the cards without the previously necessary instructions. In addition some of these cards contain guiding lines on the back, as if this is really a matter of importance or necessity. It rather limits the length of the communications.

THE STAMP on many of the cards, notably the German, is an imaginary article. Such cards render themselves liable to be thrown out of the amateur's album when they are distributed gratis to the people by the Post Office Department, as is done by Germany. Apart from the trouble and annoyance occasioned by the use of such cards, there seems to be no necessity or no reason for their adoption. A post-card is essentially a labor-saving machine. It loses that character, and therefore its usefulness if rendered imperfect by the absence of the stamp. If the cards could pass from country to country there might be sense in this peculiarity. Otherwise there seems nothing but a direct loss without any adequate return to the government.

RETURN CARDS are used in some places, and consist of a card double the size of the post-card, but folded in the middle either longitudinally or vertically. Both cards are "paid," of course, and are identical in appearance with the exception of one or two simple instructions.

There are many other interesting little peculiarities connected with the system as a whole, and in detail, whether they should be collected in entirety, or mutilated; whether used or unused; and how mounted,

etc. But as these little items will be more appropriate in the detailed list to follow, further comment is unnecessary.

One point, however, should be stated here. While this article will show every improvement and advancement, every detail, error, and little circumstance connected with postal cards, it will at the same time be as valuable to the beginner as it may be interesting to the amateur of the most advanced state of collecting. Advantage has been taken of everything that has ever been written on the subject of post-cards; varieties will be described wherever they may be found, and the utmost care will be taken that none but authentic information is given.

(To be continued.)

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### Unchronicled Varieties of Watermarked Hamburg Envelopes.

The second series of Hamburg Envelopes is watermarked, as is well known, with a large figure of a castle, occupying the central third of the face of the envelope. The "keep" on the right has five merlons, that on the left, four, and the watermark seems to be sunken into the outer surface of the paper. We have the whole series thus figured, bearing on the flap tress 5.

The following are the varieties:

- (1)  $\frac{1}{2}$  schil., wmk. reversed, having five merlons on the left keep, four on the right, and impressed on the *inner* surface of the paper. Tress 5
- (2) 2 sch., wmk. same as in ordinary series, but impressed on the inner surface of the paper. Tress 5.
- (3) 2 sch., same as last, but the flap bears a No. 5 in *intaglio*, just the exact counterpart of the ordinary tress 5.
- (4) 2 sch., watermark similar to (1), but with tress similar to that in (3).
- (5) 4 sch., identical in wmk. and tress to (3).

NOTE.—A careful comparison between these envelopes will lead one to the conclusion that two distinct watermarks and two distinct tresses were used, and if these varieties were not the result of accident, that there exist four distinct series of the Hamburg Watermarked Envelopes.

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### Obituary.

Here is how our Dominion contemporary plays chief mourner, with one eye on the main chance:

"We regret to announce the death of the Hon. Chas. Connell, whose demise took place on Saturday, June 28, at his residence at Woodstock, N. B. Mr. Connell was in the 68th year of his age, and was a native of this province. In 1869, Mr. Connell was appointed to the position of Postmaster General; the duties appertaining to which office he discharged faithfully and satisfactorily until the end of 1860, when some difficulty arising between him and his colleagues, he resigned. Mr. Connell, as many of our readers will doubtless infer, is (*sic*) the gentleman whose effigy graces the 5 cent New Brunswick stamp, issue of 1860, generally known as the "Connell Essay." As these stamps were condemned by the government immediately upon their appearance, they were speedily recalled by the Postal Department; and it is doubtful if any of them was actually employed in Franking. The original essays, uncanceled (!) may be had of any respectable dealer, at from— to—each."

We have purposely left the prices blank, as we do not wish to be understood as encouraging what, in the eyes of some, might be considered a specimen of bad taste. Instead, however, of advertising his wares at the expense of the sympathisers of Mr. Connell's friends—if indeed any of them should stumble across the original obituary—the editor had extended his account, he could doubtless have found something in Mr. Connell's career which would have been of deeper interest than the price of "The original essay, uncanceled." Since the era of stamp collecting began, no other country has possessed such an enterprising postmaster as New Brunswick, or to say the least, no other postmaster was so well-known to philatelists of all grades, as Mr. Connell. And it were therefore fitting that the writer of the above notice should have taken advantage of this fact, and told us something of the man who was independent enough to face his Queen on a similar footing, though perhaps under different colors.

#### Street Letter Boxes.

To France we must give the credit of being the first to introduce street letter boxes, somewhat similar to our lamp-post boxes. It was in 1853 that these boxes were set up in all the streets of Paris, into which the good people were supposed to deposit their letters which were to be collected three times a day for distribution within the capital, the postage on the letter to be paid by the receiver. The Parisians, however, thought the invention a capital plan to play jokes on the letter-carriers, so they filled the boxes with oyster shells and mice, and such other correspondence that the scheme was abandoned. Imagine a score of mice, three dozen oyster shells and a rusty steel pen waiting for the opening of the letter box by the carrier. Then imagine the letter carrier walking slowly and silently away from that box!



Sets of Unused Stamps.

	VARIETIES.	PRICE.		VARIETIES.	PRICE.
Al-ace and Lorraine,	6	\$0.10	Naples,	8	50
Angola,	4	50	Newfoundland, 1860,	5	2.00
Argentine Republic, 1862,	3	1.00	New Granada, 1865,	6	1.50
"    1867,	3	1.00	Oldenburgh, 1866,	5	25
Austrian Italy, 1858,	6	1.75	Peru, 1866,	3	1.00
Baden, 1862-4,	6	1.50	Portugal, 1862,	5	1.00
Bavaria, 1849-58,	6	1.00	"    1853,	4	2.00
"    1862,	6	1.00	Portuguese Indies,	3	75
Belgium, 1861,	4	50	Prussia, 1861,	6	25
"    1866,	8	1.25	"    1867,	5	25
"    1869,	9	1.00	"    1830,	5	50
Bergedorf,	5	25	Roumania, 1862,	3	1.00
Bermuda, 1865-73,	5	1.75	"    1865,	3	30
Brazil, 1866,	8	1.25	"    1873,	7	1.00
Brunswick, 1865,	5	10	Sandwich Isles, 1871,	3	75
Buenos Ayres, 1859-62,	5	5.00	Saxony, 1863,	6	10
Cape of Good Hope, 1863-5,	4	1.50	Schleswig, Schleswig Holstein,	14	1.00
Canada, 1870,	5	20	and Holstein,	8	1.00
Cashmere,	6	3.50	Servia, 1869,	5	1.50
Confederate States, 1861-3,	11	8.50	South African Republic,	5	1.50
"    "    1863,	5	25	Spain, 1850,	5	10.00
Danube Nav. Co.,	2	1.00	"    1861,	6	2.50
Denmark, 1871,	6	1.50	"    1862,	6	1.50
Dutch Indies,	5	1.00	"    1864,	6	1.50
Egypt, 1872,	7	1.50	"    1866,	7	1.50
Fiji Islands, 1872,	3	2.00	"    1870,	13	5.50
"    Surecharged,	3	1.00	"    Official, 1854,	4	25
Finland, 1864-67,	8	2.00	"    "    1855,	4	20
France, 1863-9,	8	1.00	Spanish West Indies, 1857,	4	1.00
"    Rep., 1870,	9	1.50	"    "    "    1868,	4	2.00
Hamburg,	10	50	"    "    "    1870,	4	1.50
Honduras,	2	1.00	"    "    "    1871,	4	1.50
Italy, 1856,	7	75	"    "    "    1873	3	50
"    1870,	9	2.00	Sweden, 1872,	9	1.50
Iceland,	7	1.00	"    Thronhjems	3	25
Japan,	4	75	Switzerland, 1854,	7	2.50
Liberia,	3	1.00	"    1862-8,	13	2.50
Lubee, 1859,	5	25	"    Envelope, 1867-8,	4	50
Mauritius, (Britannia) 1856-60,	4	2.50	Turkey,	5	50
Mecklenburg Strelitz,	6	35	United States, 1851,	8	1.25
Mexico, 1864,	5	2.50	"    "    Newspaper S., 1863,	4	1.00
"    1867,	4	5.00	Uruguay, 1856,	3	6.00
"    1866, engraved,	4	3.50	"    1859,	6	4.50
Modena, 1852,	7	50	"    1864,	4	1.25
"    1859,	5	50	Venezuela, 1859,	3	50
			Victoria, 1857-60,	3	4.00
			Wurtemberg, 1857,	5	1.50
			"    1862,	5	1.00
			"    1869,	4	75

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS.**

J. W. SCOTT & CO., are pleased to be able to announce to Subscribers, that they have secured the services of an eminent amateur who will take charge of the Editorial Department of the Journal from this date.

J. W. SCOTT & CO. beg to announce to the thousands of Collectors using their celebrated Albums. "The American Lallier" and the "Common Sense," that they have now prepared additional leaves, uniform with the rest of the book, to contain all the new Official Stamps.

The complete set of four pages carefully rolled in card, sent Post-Free to any address on receipt of 25 Cents.

List of U. S. Official Stamps now in stock, and for sale in any quantity by

**J. W. SCOTT CO.,**

75 and 77 Nassau Street, New York City.

**POST OFFICE.**

*Numeral in Centre.*

1 cent, black.....	10
2 " ".....	5
3 " ".....	1
6 " ".....	5
12 " ".....	10
15 " ".....	15
24 " ".....	25
30 " ".....	25
90 " ".....	25

**ENVELOPE STAMPS.**

3 cents, black on yellow.....	3
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**

*Similar to current U. S..*

1 cent, vermillion.....	5
2 " ".....	5
3 " ".....	5
6 " ".....	5
12 " ".....	10
15 " ".....	10
24 " ".....	25

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT.**

1 cent, brown.....	5
2 " ".....	5
3 " ".....	5
6 " ".....	5
10 " ".....	10
12 " ".....	10
15 " ".....	10
30 " ".....	25
90 " ".....	25

**WAR DEPARTMENT.**

*Similar to current U. S.*

3 cent, red.....	5
6 " ".....	10

**ENVELOPE STAMPS.**

1 cent, red.....	5
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**JUSTICE.**

*Similar to current U. S.*

1 cent, purple.....	25
3 " ".....	10
6 " ".....	10